

Happy

By Jonathan Elliott

Exterior. Sunset Blvd. Grant Clay is driving down the street in a purple Ferrari GT. He stops in front of a storefront of women's dresses. He pays the parking meter and enters.

Interior. The store. Miranda is trying on a dress. Francine, the seamstress is helping.

Francine

It looks gorgeous darling.
You could be Bette Davis
With the right errings.

Miranda

You're such a hustler
Francine. I love you.
It's a little tight in the back
Though don't you think?

Grant

Not at all, it shows
What a great behind you have.

Miranda

You're not the one who
Has to wear it.

Grant

Funny. If you like
She'll make room for you.

Miranda

It's fine. If you like it
Darling. Let's take it.

Grant

Great. Can we go to
Lunch now?

Miranda
Can you have it ready
By Thursday, it's Oscar
Night?

Francine
No problem.

Miranda (in the booth)
Where do you want to
Go for lunch?

Grant
I thought we could
Get a burger or something
Across the street.

Miranda
Why don't we stay on
This side and go to
Chin Chin?

Grant
Fine with me.

Exterior. Sunset Blvd. Miranda and Grant are walking to the restaurant.

Miranda
Do you seriously like it?

Grant
Absolutely. You look like
A real star.

Miranda
It is gorgeous.

They arrive at the restaurant.

Hostess
Table for two?

Grant
Someplace outside.

Hostess
No problem.

They are seated.

Grant
Now I feel like an idiot.

Miranda
Why?

Grant
You looked so beautiful in that dress.
I should have brought you flowers.

Miranda
Ahhh. Honey that's o.k.
You're such a sweetie sometimes.

Grant
Come on...

Miranda
No, I mean it.

Grant
Let's have the cashew chicken.
It's excellent.

Miranda
And some soup.

Grant

You got it.

Miranda
There's something you never told me.

Grant
Something you are curious about?

Miranda
Very.

Grant
Well, go ahead, ask away..

Miranda
Where did you get all your money?
I mean, you don't work. You don't
Deal drugs... as far as I can tell.
You don't kill for a living...
What is it?

Grant
That's it? That's the profound question.

Miranda
I'm serious Grant. I want to know.
We've been dating long enough.

Grant
Two months.

Miranda
Well I slept with you didn't I.
I would think a girl has some rights
In a relationship.

Grant
Not necessarily.

Miranda
Come on...

Grant
My father died and left me
A lot of money. He had a
Rubber factory in Paraguay.

Miranda
No fooling?

Grant
I swear.

Miranda
How much?

Grant
You really need to know?

Miranda
Actually, yes.

Grant
Enough to pay for the dress.
More than a hundred million.

Miranda
Jeez. All my daddy left me was
A tractor trailer.

Grant
You're kidding.

Miranda
Serious.

Grant
That's funny.

Interior. Ferrari. They are speeding down Sunset. Late afternoon.

Miranda
Do you think we'll ever get married.

Grant
I don't know. That's a big word with me.
Like anti-septic or catatonic.

Miranda
Really?

Grant
No, I'm just making that part up.

They arrive at his Malibu beach house. He opens the door for her.

Miranda
Always the gentleman.

He checks the mail.
They enter.

Interior. The Malibu beach house. It is stunning work of art and the interior is impeccable.

Miranda
What do you feel like doing?

Grant
I don't know. Just get comfortable.
I'm going to the bathroom.
I ate too much.

She turns on the stereo. The Rolling Stones are playing "30,000 light years away from Home" Grant goes upstairs and grabs a bottle of Codeine. He looks in the mirror And checks his shave. He shaves. He cuts his finger on the blade and Wraps it. He throws the cartridge in the garbage. He looks at the pills. He takes many of them.
The music plays. Move to livingroom.

The camera pans up her body on the couch.

Miranda
Grant... Grant... are you
Coming... Grant....

Interior. Daniel J. Freeman Memorial Hospital. Later that afternoon. We hear the beep beep beep of a heartrate machine. A nurse is approaching Grant (on a bed) with a Needle.

Joe (a patient in the hall)
Stick it up his ass!

Nurse
Mr. Hamilton, please return

To your room.

Joe
I mean it. Right up the sphincter!

An assistant escorts Joe
Down the hall.

Nurse
How are you feeling Mr. Clay?

Grant
Where am I?

Nurse
At the Marina Hospital Mr. Clay.
You have suffered an overdose
Of codeine.

Grant
I didn't think you could overdose with
Those.

Nurse
Well congratulations.
You are lucky to live through the
Amount you took.

Grant
Guess I've worked up a
Tolerance.

Nurse
Apparently.

Grant
How did I get here?

Nurse
Your girlfriend
Was smart enough to
Call an ambulance.

Grant
She's sweet. Huh?

Nurse
Yes she's very nice Mr. Clay.
Now try to relax.
You can get up for dinner in
An hour. It's across the
Hallway in the kitchen.

Grant
Thank you.

Grant closes his eyes.

Cut to: Kitchen. Grant's house. Credit's read "Thirty years ago." Grant is in the room with his mother pacing. He is watching Captain Kangaroo, not paying attention.

Mom
You're not paying attention to me.
Did you hear what I said?

Grant
Yes Ma'am.

Mom
Well? What do you have to
Say for yourself?

Grant
I just don't like it.

Mom
Did you ever think, maybe it was good
For you?

Grant
No.

Mom
Popeye eats it.

Grant
That's Popeye. Besides,
He smoked it.

Mom
That's true. Spinach is good for you.

It's healthy. You need to learn to like it.
Don't you want to be big and strong?

Grant (watching Cpt. Kangaroo)
Yeah. I'm big and strong.

Mom
I tell you what Superman,
You sit here and finish that
Spinach or you're not leaving.
How does that sound?

Grant
Fine with me.

Time lapse of the clock
Three hours go by.
Mom re-enters the room.

Mom
Go to bed now.

Grant
Yes ma'am.

We see the clock count time. Back to present.
Grant gets up in the hospital room
and starts for the kitchen
Joe is at the table with his
Face in a bowl of cereal.
Eric, Nikki, Tim & Marc are other
Patients eating dinner.

Grant
Looking good man.

Joe
Huh, what?

Eric
That's just Joe.
He's finding himself.

Tim
Yeah man, it's a zen thing.

Nikki
He always eats his cereal like that.

Grant
How do you eat your cereal when you're
Passed out.

Joe
Practice.

Eric
Don't pay any attention to him.
He's a speedballer.

Joe
Recovering.

Nikki
Yeah, right.

Tim
You know the other day, I had this
Enlightening experience.

Grant
What happened?

Tim
I was up around midnight.
I came in here to get a
Sandwich and I walked by
This spoon and I said to
Myself man, look at you
Going to fix peanut butter.

Grant
Then what happened?

Tim
I passed out.

Eric
Beautiful man. Beautiful.

Grant

Anybody want to play cards?

Tim
Sure.

Eric
I'm in.

Nikki
Me too.

Joe
I'm in.

Grant starts to deal.

Eric
I guess we're like the
Rat pack, eh?

Tim
Yeah man. The crack pack.

Joe
Hey, no drug references.

Tim
You're the mean one, Frank Sinatra.

Eric
Nikki is Shirley McLaine.

Grant
That makes you Dean Martin

Eric
And you're Joey Bishop.

Grant
Hilarious. Deal the cards...

Eric
Deal 'em Shirley.

Grant
How did you guys get in here?

Eric
I started dating Shirley.

Nikki
I started dating Deano.

Tim
I just liked heroin.

Mark
How did I get to be Sammy Davis Jr?

Eric
Your skin is the darkest.

Mark
Man. I got here because
I have a love affair with cocaine.

Grant
What are the stakes?

Eric
We'll play for matchsticks.

Tim
Perfect. I have two packs.

Nikki
That makes you a millionaire.

Eric
What are you in here for Joey?

Joe
Speed.

Eric
Not you Joe, you're Frank, remember.
Grant is Joey. Doesn't he look like Joey?

Mark
I see it.

Tim

Me too.

Grant
Here's to the crack pack.

They clink coffee mugs.

Interior. The meeting room of the hospital. . Later that day.
The Reverend Marty Nation is giving a sermon. He is tattooed all the way up both arms

Martin
Cocaine is evil. It will
Mess you up. It will eat
You up and chew you up
And spit you out. I want
To hear from some of you today.
I want you to share your
Most scandalous experiences.
Don't be afraid brothers,
Don't be afraid sister.
It's now or never.
There is no turning back from here.
You are all in here because you
Are stone cold junkies.

Nikki
Me and Eric have been here before.
We were here four weeks and
Went home and cooked
The dirty spoons.

Mark
Woooooah.

Tim
I used to do that.

Grant
You people are truly sadistic.

Eric
That was one of the better stories.

Marty
The better ones?

You are all vicious cunning
Sinners, capable of
Hurting yourself and others.
When you decide to
Get honest and admit this,
You are already half way
Home.

Mark
Amen brother Marty. Amen.

Interior. Grant's room. Miranda is seated at the chair and Grant is in bed.
"Standing In the Shadows of Love" is playing.

Grant
This is one of my favorite songs.

Miranda
Me too.

Grant
I always said we were a lot alike.

Miranda
It's true.

Grant
You think?

Miranda
Sometimes. But you get
A lot weirder than I do.

Grant
Nahhh. I just have more
Nervous symptoms.

Miranda
Not all the time.
We were going pretty good
There for awhile.

Grant
I was going to tell you something.

Miranda

What was it?

Grant
Ahhh, jeez, I can't remember

Miranda
Well you can always remember
Later and write me, or call.

Grant
I will.

Miranda
I should get going.

Grant
Why the hurry?

Miranda
I have dinner with your ex-wife.

Grant
You're kidding?

Miranda
Not at all. I thought
She might give me some insights
Into how to handle you.

Grant
I am a handful.

Miranda
Don't I know it.

Grant
Well, adios amigos.

Miranda
Goodbye Mr. Clay.

She kisses him.

Interior. Hospital Night time. Grant get's up and heads for the hallway. He looks left, looks right. Then starts for the kitchen. He gets halfway there when he is stopped by Kurt, an ailing rock and roller.

Kurt
Where you going?

Grant
Make a baloney sandwich.

Kurt
Yeah, taste good?

Grant
They're alright.

Kurt
Make one for me.

Kurt goes back to his room.

Interior. Kitchen. Grant is making a sandwich when Timmy walks in.

Grant
Hey. I can't remember
Who are you?

Timmy
I guess I'm Peter Lawford.
But my name is Timmy.

Grant
Oh yeah.

Eric and Nikki walk in.
Joe is in the cereal.

Eric
You guys ready for cards.

Mark (entering)
Someone's got to wake up Frank.

Marty (enters)

I'll do it. Sinner repent!

Joe (awakening)
God, for a second I thought you
Were my ex-wife.

Nikki
Time to play cards , Frank.

Joe
Deal em. I'm in.

They play awhile. Smoking, drinking coffee.

Grant
How did you and Shirley meet?

Eric
Shirl and I? Oh she was dating
The drummer of my band and
Then I fired him and we ran
Away together.

Grant
How did you get here?

Nikki
We decided to go to my parents
House on the East coast and
Visit for thanksgiving.

Eric
Then we needed some dope and
I called my guitar player.
He was in the room with the old drummer.
He must have turned us in. When
I arrived at the airport the FBI
Was waiting for us.

Grant
So he finked on you?

Nikki
Yeah, he was always a prick.

Eric
I still want to fuckin kill him

Grant
I don't blame you.

Mark
Hey Deal the cards Dino.
While it's still today.

Grant
I think it's tomorrow already.

Mark
Whatever. Just deal 'em.

Fade out.

Interior. Grant's bathroom. Morning. He's running the shower and smoking a joint.
There is a knock at the door.

Grant
Yes?

Nurse
Mr. Clay, the Doctor
Is ready for you.

Grant
I'll be there in just a minute.

He turns off the shower and
Flushes the toilet.
He exits
And walks down the hall
To

Exterior. Courtyard. Dr. Selznick is waiting for him and offers him a chair.

Dr. Selznick
Goodmorning

Grant
Hello Doctor.

Dr. Selznick
How are you feeling.

Grant
Just fine. Fine and dandy.

Dr. Selznick
Do you know what day it is today?

Grant
Thursday.

Dr. Selznick
Who is the President?

Grant
George Bush, Sr.

Dr. Selznick
Very good.

Grant
Thank you. I pride myself
On my public awareness.

Dr. Selznick
Do you know why you are here?

Grant
Not particularly.

Dr. Selznick
You overdosed on codeine medication.

Grant
To tell you the truth, I didn't know that
Was possible.

Dr. Selznick
I'm afraid so.

Grant
Really?

Dr. Selznick

You know, to be honest,
This is the most lucid and
Candid I have ever seen
You since you arrived.

Grant
Come on, really?

Dr. Selznick
Absolutely.

Grant
That's incredible.

Dr. Selznick
Why?

Grant
I just don't feel that
Way.

Dr. Selznick
Well you could have fooled me.

Grant
Hmmm

Interior. Afternoon. The Reverend Martin Nation is giving a sermon in the
Common room. All the patients are seated.

Martin
Each and every one of you
Is a despicable, deplorable
Sinner. Whether you are
A tooter, a pill popper,
A stoner, a speed freak
A heroin junkie. You are
All suffering a disease
Of mind and a disease of the body.
The question I wish to address today is
Are you willing to admit to yourselves
The powerlessness of your fight
Against addiction and accept that
Your lives have become unmanageable.

Eric
Can I ask a question?

Martin
Not yet.

Deanna
Can I go to the bathroom?

Martin
Of course.

Martin
Maybe some of you are willing
To share you experiences with
Us today.

Nikki
Well, I don't know about the rest
Of you, but for me and Eric, this is
Our second time here. We both
Are heroin addicts and thought
We had it licked the first time.
I guess we were only fooling ourselves.

Martin
What drove you back to using?

Eric
We enjoyed it?

Martin
Did you enjoy the destruction of your
Own lives that followed? Did you
Enjoy the way it tore your family apart?
Did you enjoy the way you were
Unable to function in society.

Nikki
Not particularly

Martin
Well the sooner you can admit
That, the closer you are to recovery.

Interior. The Beverly Hills Hotel Polo Lounge. Later that day. Miranda is at the bar
Drinking with Grant's ex-wife, Sofia.

Sofia

He did that? Really? I told you, Grant
Has always been an attention getter.

Miranda

Everything was going so well Sofia.
He had just bought me a new dress
For Oscar's night, for god's sake.

Sofia

Well don't take it personally darling.
Grant is, deep down, a selfish child,
A masochist, a sadist, and a selfish
Idiot. Why do you think I divorced
Him?

Miranda

For the money?

Sofia

Is that what he says? Honey, I had
my own money.

Miranda

Actually, he rarely talks about it.

Sofia

That's because he's always busy talking
About himself.

Miranda

Sometimes he is a child.

Sofia

Honey, he'll tear your heart out if
You let him.

Miranda

What should I do?

Sofia

My advice? Seriously? You
Should find yourself a Greek god
And don't look back.

Miranda

I love Grant. He's funny.

Sofia

Funny enough to try and kill
Himself why you are in the livingroom.
Where is the charm in that?

Miranda

Every scene isn't suicide with him Sofia.
He has tender loving moments.

Sofia

Between golf games? When?

Miranda

You're being catty.

Sofia

Learn from it. It'll keep you safe.

Miranda

I don't understand.

Sofia

He's all bottled up. He hides
Everything. One minute you think
Everything is great, the next, whammo!

Miranda

Do you think he's dangerous?

Sofia

Only to himself honey, only
To himself.

Interior. Common room of hospital. Grant is speaking to the group.

Grant

My father was a benefactor of the poor.
He gave a lot of money to the disabled,
To the homeless, fighting poverty. He
Rarely spent time with me.

Martin

So you thought you'd go out and use
Drugs to catch his attention? Is that
It?

Grant

Actually, no. I didn't really begin to
Use drugs until after his death.

Deanna

It sounds like you haven't been fully able
To cope with his death.

Grant

I think that is true to some extent.

Martin

What you have got to realize is that
You are a stone cold, hopeless
Junkie.

Grant

Thanks reverend. By the way,
Where did you get your credential
As a preacher?

Martin

Remember the old classified ads
Of Rolling Stone Magazine?

Grant

In the seventies?

Martin

Exactly.

Grant

That's hilarious.

Martin

Well I'll admit that I am not
A master of theology. But
I tell you one thing I did master,
My craving for drugs and alcohol.
Everybody, thanks for coming.
I'll see you next week.

The patients begin to walk out.

Interior. The Beverly Hills Polo Lounge. Miranda is finishing a drink. Later that evening.

Sofia

You want another one?

Miranda

Sure.

Sofia

Bartender... Two seven and sevens.

Miranda

Do you think he'll ever settle down?

Sofia

The truth. You want the truth?

Miranda

Yes, of course.

Sofia

He'll drop you for the next
Piece of ass he finds on Sunset Blvd.

Miranda

I know.

Sofia

If I know Grant Clay, he's probably
Getting down right now in the hospital.

Interior. The Kitchen of the hospital. Grant is looking up the legs of Tricia.
She is a patient suffering from heroin addiction.

Grant

Have you been here long.

Tricia

Long enough to notice you
Looking at my legs.

Grant

Do you mind?

Tricia

Not really.

Grant

How come?

Tricia

You're kind of cute.

Grant

I'd invite you back to
My room but the only thing
To do is play with my i.v. machine.

Tricia

That's funny.

Grant

Yeah, I should have been a comedian.

Tricia
We could play cards.

Grant
Then the whole crack pack will
Arrive.

Tricia
Who'se that?

Grant
You know, Dino, Frank, Shirley,
Joey.

Tricia
I thought they split up years
Ago?

Grant
Nah. It's a whole new era.

Tricia
Ahh.. I see.

Eric (enters)
How's it going Joey?

Tricia
Why does he call you Joey?

Grant
I'm Joey Bishop.

Tricia
I thought you said you were
Grant Clay?

Joey (enters)
That's just his codename
On the inside.

Tricia
I thought I was the only one
Screwed up in here.

Nikki (entering)
Good luck.

Tricia
What's his codename on the outside?

Joey
Grant Clay.

Grant
I told you Dino,
We're supposed to be
Anonymous in here.

Tricia
The Grant Clay?
The guy who inherited his
Father's rubbermaking
Plant?

Grant (to camera)

Grant
She loves me now.

Tricia
I thought you got lost in
Bermuda and were swallowed
By crocodiles.

Grant
Duh.... That was last month
Honey.

Tricia
So what is it this week?

Grant
This week I'm a raging
Alcoholic.

Tricia (enamored)
Wow.

Interior. Polo Lounge. Sofia to Miranda. Later that evening.

Sofia
He's a dirtbag is what he is.

Miranda
But, there's something about
Him...

Sofia
Something about Mary
Honey, start with that.

Miranda
What about Mary?

Sofia
It's just a vision of jealousy.

Miranda
What do you mean?

Sofia
Let's just say when you get to
Know Grant, the past ain't
The past and the future as
You thought it was going to
Be, just isn't.

Miranda
What do you mean by that.

Sofia
Well, and honey, I'm not
Trying to be mean here,
But he says one thing and
Does another, says one
Thing and does another...

Interior. Common area room. Grant is with Tricia. A nurse walks in.
They are on the couch now.

Nurse
Will you guys turn the
Lights off when you leave?

Grant
Of course.

Tricia
We will.

Nurse
Just remember, no making out.

Grant
We won't.

She leaves.
They make out.

Tricia
I think...

Grant
It's just my teeth caught
On your bra strap.

Tricia
Is that what it is?

He stretches it and
It snaps.

Grant
You like that?

Tricia
Ow!

Grant
Sorry

Tricia (laughing)
I'm just kidding.

Grant
Wow you got me.

They make out some more.

Tricia
You know who I think is really handsome?

Grant
Who?

Tricia
Jeremy Doolittle?

Grant
Wow?

Tricia
Wow what?

Grant
Am I misbehaving or what?

Tricia
He's just... sometimes he
Looks like a rugged cowboy.

Grant (getting up)
I can't believe I'm hearing this.

Tricia
What?

Grant
No wonder I take pills.

Interior. Polo Lounge. Sofia and Miranda.

Sofia
He's a pig.

Miranda
Sounds like you love him.

Sofia
Well, part of me still adores
Him, don't get me wrong.

Miranda
What part?

Sofia
The part of him that is
Still a child.

Miranda
Is there another part?

Sofia
Not really.

Miranda
How did you first meet?

Sofia
His father introduced us
At a society function.

Miranda
Was it love at first sight?

Sofia
I'm afraid so. He was a
Good dancer, funny.
A real ladies man.

Miranda
That's Grant all right.

Sofia
Just be careful he
Doesn't break your heart

They pay the check and
Start to leave.

Miranda
Can I drive you somewhere?

Sofia
That's all right. I took a taxi.
I like taxis.

Miranda
You sure? It's no trouble at
All.

Sofia
I'll be fine honey.
It was nice to see you though.
Let's do it again soon.

Miranda
You're on.

Interior. The lab at the hospital. Early morning. An orderly is taking blood from Grant.

Orderly
Let me just find a vein.

Grant
I try not to watch these days.
It makes it easier.

Orderly
Well, blood is blood.

Grant
Yeah, it's just the part where
It's flowing out of my body
That gets to me.

Orderly
I don't blame you. First time
I did this I passed out.

Grant
Me too.

Orderly
Well, that it.

Grant
What are you looking for?

Orderly
Hepatitis A, B, C.

Grant
That's a relief.

Orderly
Why?

Grant
I don't know. Just
Making conversation.

Orderly
I see.

Grant looks out the window.
One of the patients is being chased in his
Pajamas in the parking lot.

Grant
Run Freddy. Run!

Orderly
He won't get very far.

Grant
Yeah. Looks like they tackled him
Before he reached the street.

Orderly
One of em is an ex-football player.

Grant
God, that looks like it hurt.

Orderly
Probably did.

Interior. Grant's Malibu beach house. Early morning. Miranda opens the door and enters. She checks the message machine (v.o) "Hi Grant this is Stacey, I thought maybe We could get together this week. Call me." BEEP (v.o) Grant, this is Melissa, Where have you been?" BEEP. Miranda goes to the stereo and puts on the c.d. "Emily" by Zoot Simms plays softly. She goes to the couch and starts to cry.

Interior. Hospital. Grant's bedroom. He gets into bed.

Nurse
Is there anything I can get you?

Grant
A scotch and soda?

Nurse
Besides alcohol?

Grant
Maybe a Tylenol or some
Other kind of aspirin. I
Have a headache.

Nurse
Just one, or two.

Grant
Three.

Nurse
You can only have two.

Grant
Two then.

She exits and returns quickly.
He's asleep.
She leaves them by the bed.

Interior. Grant's Malibu beach house bathroom. Morning. The music is playing sweetly.
Miranda grabs a bottle of pills and heads downstairs.

Interior. Morning. The kitchen of the hospital. Nikki, Tim, Joey and Erica are playing cards.

Nikki
Hearts are wild.

Joey
Does a straight beat a flush?

Timmy
I think so.

Eric
Hell, I don't know.

Nikki
Where's Joey Bishop?
We can't play without
Joey.

Eric
Maybe we should postpone the game.

Joey
Nah, wake his ass up.

Timmy
You do it.

Eric
All right.

Eric leaves.

Inteiror. Malibu beach house. The bar. Miranda is mixing a drink.
She heads over to the sofa and starts to take the pills. One at a time.

Interior. Grant's hospital room. Eric and Grant are in the room.

Eric
Hey Grant, wake up.

Grant
What's up?

Eric
We're playing cards.

Grant
Well play without me.

Eric
We can't.

Grant
All right.

He gets up. They enter the kitchen. The orderly walks in.

Orderly
Hey you guys. Everybody
Ready to go to the gym?

Nikki
Not really.

Tim
Where is it?

Orderly
A few miles down the road.

Grant
Are we walking?

Orderly
No. We take the van.

Grant
I could use the walk.

Orderly
You're coming with the
Rest of us.

Interior. The Gym. Afternoon. Some are lifting weights, some are playing basketball.
Mike and Grant are playing pool. "I'm gonna Let it Slide" is playing on the radio.

Grant
Great. Another song about
Me smoking pot.

Mike
That's funny.

Grant
I'll break.

Mike
Go ahead.

Grant (misses everything)
Mike (puts one in)

Grant
Nice shot.

Mike
Thanks.

Grant
It looks like the one
Yellow in the corner.
Ahhh, missed it.

Mike
If you hit three rails
It's not a scratch.

Grant
I didn't know that.
Good to know.

Mike
Yeah.

Grant
I'll try the four, purple
On the side.

Mike
Nice one.

Time lapse of the game.

Grant
You get one more try
For that eight ball.
Ahhh... good game...

Mike
Thanks.

Orderly
All right everyone.
It's time. Sign out.

They head back to the van.

Inside the van. “Hang On St. Christopher” comes on the radio. D.j. “and now a tune headed for number one with a blast.... The bullet boys...”

Timmy
Dude, turn it up. That’s my song.

Eric
Nice bass man.

Timmy
I’m singing.

Eric
Yeah.

Grant
I like it.

Nikki
Shut up. I’m listening.

Van pulls up.
They get out.

Interior. Late afternoon. The patients enter the double doors and head for their rooms.

Interior. Grant’s hospital room. He climbs into bed with a sigh and closes his eyes.

Interior. LAX airport. Credits read “Twenty years earlier.” Grant is with his Dad and Family.

Dad
Get the bags inside.

Grant
I got them all Pop.

Mom
Honey do you have his
Ticket?

Grant
I've got it Ma.

Mom (adjusting his collar)
There you go. Do you
Need a Dramamine for the
Flight?

Grant
Nah...I'll be all right.

Mom
You sure? You always
Get sick on these long
Flights.

Grant
I'm sure.

Airport attendant
These all the bags?

Grant
Yes.

Airport attendant
Where you all headed?

Mom
Italy.

Grant
I thought we were going
To London first?

Mom
No honey, after.

Dad (leaning against the column)
Wow man, dig these.

Grant
What?

Dad
I said dig these.

Grant
I didn't hear you.

Dad
Dig these crazy columns man.

Grant
Dad, you're so funny. What's so
Special about the columns?

Dad
You'll find out when we get
To Italy. There are all different
Ones. You know them?

Grant
That doesn't look like anyone
I know.

Dad
It's wide, huh?

Grant
Widest column I ever saw.

Dad
Come on. Let's get on
The plane. Yeah, we'll
See the columns.

Interio. Hospital room. Evening. Grant is on the table and they are drawing blood.

Orderly
Does this hurt.

Grant
Only when you put
The needle in. I
Try to keep my
Eyes closed when you do
This now. It's easier.

Orderly
There. Wait. Let me put
On a band aid.

Grant
And can I get an extra one
For the last time you did it?

Orderly
Sure. There you go.

Grant leaves and walks down the hallway to his room. Enter Sofia.

Grant
We'll look what the cat dragged in.

Sofia
Always at your wits.

Grant
Thanks darling.

Sofia
I brought you a box of chocolates.

Grant
What kind?

Sofia
Does it matter.

Grant
No. I'm just teasing.

Sofia
I know.

Grant
How's it going with the store?

Sofia
Sales are good. Can't complain.

Grant
Yeah? That's good.

Sofia
I'm going to Greece next week
To look at tables and lamps.

Grant
That's nice.

Sofia
You seem hazy. Far away.

Grant
Must be the Vicodin.

Sofia
You came in with a codeine addiction
And decided to leave with Vicodin?

Grant
It's for the pain...

Sofia
Ah right... the pain.... The pain...
Where?

Grant
In my ass. Would you believe I have
A pain in my ass?

Sofia
No.

Grant
Well I do. It hurts.

Sofia
You're hilarious.

Grant
What can I say?

Sofia
I was hoping you were going
To tell me you are getting better.

Grant
I am.

Sofia
Sounds like it.

Grant
Don't rush me.

Sofia
I'm not rushing you.
I want you to stop
Hurting yourself.

Grant
Come on honey.

Sofia
Ha! Don't honey me.
This is serious.

Grant
You're always serious.
That's why we aren't
Married anymore.

Sofia
It's better this way.

Grant
Yeah. We get along better
Now don't we?

Sofia
Yes we do.

Grant
Any news.

Sofia
I had a drink with Miranda.
She's a nice girl. She
Doesn't deserve a shlub like you.
I told her she needs a big Greek stud.

Grant
Thanks.
How is she?

Sofia
She's fine.

Grant
That's nice.

Interior. Grant's apartment. Paramedics are giving Miranda defibrillation and Adrenaline shots.

Paramedic
Come on honey. Breathe. Breathe.

Paramedic 2
I can't get a pulse.

Sound of a flatline on the monitor.

Paramedic
Jesus.

Paramedic 2
She's really beautiful.

Paramedic
What do you want to
Do her Harry? Come on
Let's pack it up and go.

They put her on a stretcher and cover her face. They wheel her out.

Interior. Hospital. Grant is in the office with Dr. Murphy. He is tapping his pencil.

Dr. Murphy
Are you sure you are ready for this?

Grant
To get released? Yeah. Are you
Kidding? I'm looking forward
To life on the outside.

Dr. Murphy
I hope you'll continue you're
Regular attendance at alcoholics
Anonymous meetings.

Grant
I thought you weren't suppose to publicize.

Dr. Murphy
This isn't publicity Grant. It's
Consultation.

Grant
What happen to the other Dr?
Dr. Franklin?

Dr. Murphy
Turns out he had a gambling problem
And took hospital money and
Blew it at the ponies.

Grant (laughing)
Well go easy on him.

Dr. Murphy
He might end up in jail.

Grant
He was always decent to me.
I hope it works out for him.

Dr. Murphy
Who knows. That doesn't concern me.
What I am interested to know about
Is whether you feel you are
Ready to embark on your journey?

Grant
God you make it sound like I'm going up the Nile
On a riverboat in a sarcophagus.

Dr. Murphy
Don't be dramatic. Try to focus
On your present situation.

Grant
I will Doctor. Hey, who knows,
Maybe I'll send you a postcard.

Dr. Murphy
I'd like that.

Grant
Thanks Doc.

They shake hands. Grant departs.

Interior. Grant's Ferrari. Macho Suarez pulls the car up. He is Grant's assistant.

Macho
He boss. Have a nice stay?

Grant
Third time.

Macho
It's a charm.

Grant
Good luck, huh?

Macho (laughing)
You'll need it boss.
You look good though.
Rested?

Grant
Sort of. I guess you could say that.
You want to drive me to New York City?

Macho
Why not?

Grant
I'm just kidding Macho.
Got any grass?

Macho
Not yet.

Grant
Any parties?

Macho
Terry's house.

Grant
Terry. Really? That
Old hermit. What happened?

Macho
His wife left.

Grant
We should get him a hooker
Or something. Cheer him up.
I don't want to show up empty
Handed.

Macho
You're disgusting boss.

Grant
I know. I'm terrible. You
Never know, it might cheer him
Up. You never know.

Macho
I know some mariachi's.

Grant
Perfect. Use my cell phone.

Macho (dialing)
Maria. Yeah it's Macho.
What's Frank's number?
Thanks.

He hangs up and dials.

Macho
Frank. Hey, Macho.
Que paso?

Cut to:

Frank in a Mariachi hat at the phone in his one bedroom apartment. The others on the couch tuning up.

Frank
Macho. Ohla. What's happening?
Oh no man. We're tuning up

For a wedding...

We hear Grant in the background (v.o) "tell him there's a thousand dollars in it..."

Well, maybe I can tell her
Zapata o'd or something...
What's the address?

He writes it down.

Frank
Two o'clock. Si Senior.

He puts the phone down.

Interior. Car.

Macho
Where to now boss?

Grant
The Cantina.

Macho
A little celebration?

Grant
Obviously.

Macho
At the little cantina
In the marina?

Grant
Yeah why not?

Macho
Man, I thought we could
At least hit Mazatlan
Or Nogales for some
Pills, something...

Grant
Maybe later...
I don't feel like
Traveling too much
For anything right now.

Macho
Still woozy from the
Anti-pschotics?

Grant
A little. Like chasing a
Frog in a blizzard.

Macho
Gotcha.

They pull into the cantina.

Waiter
Table for two?

Grant
No, we'll just hang
On the patio.

Serena
Hi fellas.

Grant
Well hello.

Serena
I'm Serena and this
Is my friend Celeste.

Grant
Really, nice to meet you?

Macho
You ladies like a drink?

Grant
Yeah, anything you want...

Serena
No thanks, we're all
Taken care of.

Richy
You see the thing about girls
Grant, is you have to reach
Them first.

Grant
Ah, diced again.

Richy
I heard about your accident.

Grant
Who told you?

Miranda
Miranda, before she died.
Got that was a shame.

Grant
Before she died?

Macho
Uh boss... there's something
I forgot to tell you...

Grant
Something you forgot to tell
Me would have been like
You forgot to take my dry cleaning
In. Macho, this is a little
Bigger. You could
Have told me first instead of
The bar boy hear.

Serena
The bar boy? You told us
You owned a yacht?

Grant
He cleans a yacht. Mine.

Serena
Oh I see.

Grant
Wow, isn't a lovely day.

Macho
Sure is boss.

Grant
You girls want to go to
A party?

Celeste
Sure, why not?

Macho
I'll draw you a map.

Serena
You sure the host won't mind us
Dropping by.

Grant (looking at her bikini top)
I'm sure.

Interior. Terry's house in the Malibu colony. The house is crowded with guests.
Macho and Grant enter.

Terry
Grant. Grant and Mario.

Macho
Macho

Terry
That's right. Come on
In enjoy the party...

End of first part.

Grant
Wow, isn't a lovely day?

Macho
Sure is boss.

Grant
You girls want to go to
A party?

Celeste
Sure, why not?

Macho
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In enjoy the party...

End of first part.

Terry
You want a drink?

Grant
I'm on the wagon.

The girls walk in...

Terry
Which wagon... the one
Marked girls?

Grant
No... we just picked them up
At the cantina... The wagon that
Says no more drinking.

Terry
Really...

Grant
Yeah... it's a new thing with
Me... I'm becoming sober.

Terry
For god's sake.. don't talk
Like that around here.
You'll scare the kids.

Grant
You're funny.

Terry
No, I'm just joking.

Grant
I know.

Terry
Try and have a good time
Anyway... O.k. Chief?

Grant
Will do.

Macho
You got any grass...?

Terry
Outside.

Grant
I'm gonna watch t.v. or
Something.

Macho
Better for both of us.

Terry
Why.

Macho
He's crazy when he gets
Loaded.

Terry
You don't have to tell me.
He broke my 90,000 dollar
Lalique table with a pool cue.

Grant
God, I don't even remember that.

Terry
It was a Monday night football game.

Grant
Oh yeah, Raiders, jets.

Terry
Well have a good time.

The party rages and we
See Grant staring
At an episode of
Charlie's Angels.

Grant
This is fun.

Jacobs
Tell me aren't these
Parties fabulous?

Grant
Yeah, but they are a
Little different to
Tell you the truth,
When you aren't drinking.

Jacobs
Well for god's sakes man,
Indulge... you only live once.

Grant
Oh I've lived once already.
I've lived twice now. Just
Since last week. No
Thanks just the same.

Jacobs
Really. How can you say no
To an apple martini?

Grant
I guess with an N and an O.

Jacobs
Well, don't let me push you
Into it.

Grant
Thanks. I appreciate that.

Jacobs
What are you watching?

Grant
Just some old re-runs.

Jacobs
Cable is fantastic isn't it?

Grant
Truly.

Interior. Grant's apartment. The lights are dim. It's evening. He enters and turns on the lights. Emily plays softly on the stereo.

Grant
Goodnight, Macho, Thanks.

Macho
You need anything else?

Grant
No, thanks, you go home,
I'll be o.k.

Grant
Any messages?

Macho
Just a bill on the table
For the girl's ambulance.
And yours.

Grant
Thanks.

Macho
No problem.

Grant
Go home. I'll be o.k.

He wanders around and checks the mail.
The lights dim.

Interior. AA meeting.

Crowd
Grant me the serenity to
Accept the things I
Cannot change. The courage
To change the things I
Can and the wisdom to
Know the difference.
Keep coming back it works
If you work it. Amen.

Paul
Thanks everyone for
Attending tonight,
If there are any last
Minute shares we
Are glad to hear them.

Grant
Yes I'd like to speak.

Paul
Go ahead.

Grant
Well, I used to think

Crowd
What's your name?

Grant
Grant.and that's why
When they said Grant me
The serenity I thought they were
Asking it from me, because
That's my name, Grant.
Anyway, I've been through a
Hospital and a girlfriend's
Suicide this week, so
I'm not quite sure what I have left to
Say except how grateful I am to
Be here tonight. It really is an amazing
Thing to be able to share the experiences
Of all you wonderful people in this time of
Despair for me. Thanks.

Exterior. Outside the AA meeting. People are mulling around smoking.

Grant
Hi

Rita
I really enjoyed what you had to say.

Grant
Really. You did?

Rita
Yeah. That took a lot of guts.

Grant
Thanks.

Rita
We're you close to her?

Grant
Not so much.

Rita
What made you come here?

Grant
I don't know. I just thought
It would be good for me.

Rita
How much time do you have?
If you don't mind me asking..

Grant
Oh... a week. A week or so...

Rita
Well, I don't usually do this...

We see a biker walk by... "Hi Rita"

Rita
But if you want, you can come with me
And we can grab some coffee.

Grant
Sure, why not.

Interior. Starbucks Café. Fairfax and Olympic. Evening. Rita and Grant are talking.

Rita
I'm from Portland originally.

Grant
Really. I never would have guessed.

Rita
Why not.

Grant
I had you for a city girl.

Rita
Come on. Portland's a big city.

Grant
I didn't know. Honestly.

Rita
I always thought I was the organic type.

Grant
Organic. When people say organic I
Think of marijuana.

Rita
Oh... don't go there. I smoked
For years.

Grant
Me too.

Rita
Why don't we talk about
Something else?

Grant
Like what.

Rita
I don't know. The
Weather or something.

Grant
Nice day.. huh?

Rita
I went to the beach.

Grant
You surf?

Rita
No I just had my cards read
From my friend Robin. She's awesome.
A real psychic.

Grant
You're kidding.

Rita
No, seriously, she tells me everything.

Grant
What did she say?

Rita
That tonight I would meet a man.

Grant (laughing)
Does she say that a lot?

Rita
Come on...

Grant
I'm sorry.

Rita
No, I mean, come on. Let's go.

We see the Ferrari drive away.

Exterior. Hollywood.

Interior. Rita's apartment. They enter and Grant kicks the cat by accident.

Rita
That's rags.

Grant
We'll from rags to riches.

Rita
She's harmless.

Grant
So what do you want to do?

Rita
I don't know. What do you
Want to do?

Grant
I don't know. Play
Strip poker?

Rita
Normally gambling
Is a trigger for me.

Grant
Well I don't want to
Send you on a binge.

Rita
That's o.k. We can
Play if you want.
It's not so much gambling.

Grant
That's true.

The scene progresses.
We see them in their underwear.
David Sandborn is playing on the radio.

Rita
Full house.

Grant
There goes my t shirt.

Rita
I was hoping to win that.

Grant
What do you mean.

Rita
It was sort of a
Creative visualization thing.

Grant
Oh I see.

He takes off his t shirt.

Rita
You're deal.

Grant
I'm afraid to go on.

Rita
Don't be scared.

Grant
The cat might see.

Rita
The cat is asleep.

Grant
You sure.

Rita
Oh yeah. It gets a
Nap before practicing
Screaming all night.

Grant
What do you do.

Rita
Throw my shoes.

Grant
That's funny.

THEY START TO KISS.

Rita
You want to quit?

Grant
I surrender. You've
Beaten me.

Rita
Well, losing at
This game isn't so bad.

They fall into bed.

Interior. Rita's apartment. Morning. The alarm clock is sounding. She comes over
With a cup of coffee.

Rita
I have to be at work in
Twenty five minutes.

Grant
What is it you do
Again...?

Rita
You never asked, dummy.

Grant
Well, now I'm interested.

Rita
All of a sudden...

Grant
Tell me... come on..
I won't laugh..

Rita
I'm a veterinarian assistant.

Grant
You throw shoes at your cat!

Rita
Well, it works.

Grant
Do you torture animals or
Heal them?

Rita
Heal them.

Grant
Well that's good at least.

Rita
Thank you. And you
Do you have anyplace to
Go this morning?

Grant
No. Not that I can
Think of...

Rita
Why not...

Grant
I'm rich...

Rita
I didn't realize.

Grant
It's not something
I come right out
And say.

Rita
Why not?

Grant
I don't know. Girls always
Look at me differently when
They realize it.

Rita
Realize what?

Grant
That I have money.

Rita
There are other things to realize.

Grant
Like what?

Rita
Like what a nice man you are.

Grant
Thank you for that.

Rita
Well, you are. The first time
I saw you I knew you
Were a nice man. That's
Why I stopped to talk to
You.

Grant
You're doing wonders for
My self-esteem.

Rita
Well, I'm afraid I have to go.

Grant
Wow. Now I'm deflated.

Rita
Let yourself out.

She kisses him and goes.
Joe Walsh music here "All of A Sudden"

Grant smokes a cigarette and listens to the radio. He realizes she has forgotten to feed the cat as it MEOWS and he feeds the cat.

Grant
See ya later rags.

Exterior. Rita's apartment. Grant gets in the car and starts to drive.

Grant (on the phone)
What's up macho?

Macho (v.o)
Your stock is down 95 cents.

Grant
For god's sakes prepare my syringe.

Macho (v.o)
Don't get hysterical

Grant
I'm just joking. I'll be at
The farmers market
With all the old guys if
You need me.

Macho
o.k.

Exterior. Grant pulls into the farmers market. Afternoon. He orders a doughnut and sits next to an old man.

Grant
You like the food here?

Mike
Yes, it's very inexpensive.

Grant
What do you do?

Mike
I eat here twice a week.

Grant
Retired?

Mike
Yes, I'm from Brooklyn.
I used to own an appliance
Factory.

Grant
What's that?

Mike
You know, spoons, bowls,
Dinnerware. We got iced out
By the Chinese years ago
And I sold the factory.

Grant
Too bad.

Mike
I have enough to live on.

Margarite comes over.

Margarite
May I join you?

Mike
Only if you're French.

Margarite
I am. How did you know?

Mike
Your accent gave you away.

Grant
I'm Grant this is uh...

Mike
Mike. Nice to meet you.

Margarite
And you as well.

Mike
What do you do Grant?

Grant
I'm sort of retired too.

Margarite
Ahh, you are too young.

Grant
Maybe I'll take up writing
Or something.

Margarite
Are American's lazy?

Mike
No, just beaten down
By foreigners.

Margarite
I see.

Grant
I enjoy life though. I
Don't like to think I'm beaten.

Mike
We're beaten. Just look at her.

Grant
God. You're right.

Margarite (winks)
Otherwise I like Americans.
They're funny.

Grant
Do you always turn on a dime like that?

Margarite
I hope not.

Mike
He's just being catty.

She gets up to leave.

Grant
Where are you going?

Margarite
I'm beginning to think you
Are disgusting.

Grant
It just hit you?

Mike
Come on, he's just young
And foolish. A lot like
You.

Margarite
Maybe it's true.
I'm going to look for books.

Grant
Can I join you?

Margarite
All right.

They start to walk.

Grant
I've always liked French girls
They have a certain
Je'ne c'est qua...

Margarite
Ah you speak French?

Grant
Un petite peur.

Margarite
Very good.

Grant
I get better as the
Time goes. Just work on me
A little bit.

Margarite
Maybe I will.

Fade out.